

this historic trail that is going to lead somewhere and has been designed for specific purposes, certainly the campaign trail for finance reform in this country is leading absolutely nowhere.

Mr. Speaker, we have scheduled it tonight, we have scheduled it at a time when we are supposed to be debating during the course of today's calendar, we are debating, I am sure, a very important piece of legislation here today for this National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, and we are giving 20 minutes to this particular bill and the same amount of time and importance to each one of the campaign finance bills tonight, 20 minutes apiece.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we are also saying tonight that these bills have to be on the suspension calendar, which I think is a travesty to the system, it is unfair to the American people's desire for campaign finance reform, and it does not do justice to the amount of work that many Members of Congress have put into this historic campaign finance reform legislation that they have worked hard on, that they think that their constituents are very interested in, that they think is important for the integrity of our system here in America.

And certainly as we look at the calendar for the rest of the day, 20 minutes today on this National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, 20 minutes on these particular bills on campaign finance reform, I am sure that we are going to spend more than 20 minutes on the tobacco legislation that is going to be coming before Congress. And with the amount of money that big tobacco has put into the legislation that is going to be before Congress, certainly there might be some out there, Mr. Speaker, that do not want any kind of legitimate campaign finance reform going on tonight to talk about the roles of special interest groups in the system today.

I think the American people, whether they are in Indiana or California or New Jersey, want to do specific things to try to clean up the system. They want to have more faith in their people in public service, they want to see some lids on the amount of money being spent in campaigns across the country today. They want to see this soft money or sewer money not being flushed into every particular district in the country at the last minute and having no accountability to either one of the candidates, Democrat or Republican. They want to see that we have a fair system in the campaign finance reform system in the future.

I think more and more, Mr. Speaker, we are seeing the candidates that are running for different elective office out there more and more reflective of the higher income groups, and more and more the middle class and lower income people are not going to be able to run for office in the future if we are not able to debate and discuss in a genuine sense, with a lot of integrity and some

considerable time, campaign finance reform.

So to put campaign finance reform on a Monday night, to put campaign finance reform before the American people at the same time that there is a very important basketball game taking place tonight, to put campaign finance reform at 20-minute intervals, the same 20 minutes that I am sure that this important bill deserves, but I think campaign finance reform is certainly something the American people are probably more interested in and affects more of them than this National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming.

We need to make sure that we are doing a service to campaign finance reform, and let the American people know what is in these bills, let the American people contact our offices and let us know how we should vote on a particular matter of this kind of importance to the American people.

I would hope that the Republican leadership, Mr. Speaker, would do a service to the body, do a service to the people of this country and not put such an important bill up for debate when Members are traveling back from the Midwest and back from the West Coast, when many of them are not even here to partake in the debate or listen to the debate, and when we only put 20 minutes forward on such an important piece of legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this very important bill before us, and I appreciate my colleagues' patience.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the fine gentleman from Indiana for his support, and I congratulate him on his creativity in debate. I would add one little bit of information. Actually there is 20 minutes of time allocated to each side, so if it makes my colleague feel any better, it is 40, but I doubt that is the case.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see a speaker from Nevada, an author from Wyoming and a legislator from California all up here to support the National Historic Trails Center in Casper, Wyoming. I am a big supporter of historic trails. In fact, we are going to authorize to spend \$5 million of taxpayers' money, and I think it is money well spent. But we are going to see probably everybody is voting for this bill because it is a good thing to do, to support historic trails.

I wonder if this trail is going to lead us into some meaningful campaign finance reform. Do my colleagues think that we could sort of get, in a bipartisan spirit, this idea that we ought to probably limit the amount of money that goes into campaigns, not expand them, that I understand is the pro-

posal, kind of limit it down here? I mean, there was so much money spent in campaigns in the 1996 election, if we limited it to \$5 million like the center would have, we would have meaningful reform.

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Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this, and I hope that when we have similar type legislation for similar bills in California, that Wyoming supports us as well. I hope this trail center, when you interpret it, it will be able to interpret why we have not had meaningful campaign reform here on the floor of the House in March of 1998.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her tremendous patience, and I want to commend the gentleman from California for his remarks. I think that perhaps we should provide a special area in this historic center we are going to build in Casper, Wyoming, and put all the memorabilia about campaign finance reform in it. Maybe that might be of help.

I want to truly thank the gentlewoman for our dialogue this afternoon and in passage of this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote for passage of this legislation.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to support H.R. 2186, a bill introduced by my colleague Congresswoman BARBARA CUBIN from the State of Wyoming. Mrs. CUBIN has worked very hard for the citizens of Wyoming to help establish the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center. These historic trails, including four Congressionally designed trails, form a distinctive part of our Nation's history and represent valuable historic and cultural themes which helped shaped the West.

This bill is showpiece of a cooperative partnerships between federal and non-federal interests that will fund, construct, operate, and maintain the Trails Center.

This bill is non-controversial and is supported by the Administration, trails groups, and the City of Casper, Wyoming. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2186.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2186.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2186.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

#### RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3113) to reauthorize the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3113

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act of 1998".

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 7 of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306) is amended by striking "fiscal years" and all that follows through "2000" and inserting "fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CUBIN).

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present the House of Representatives H.R. 3113, to extend the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 until September 30, 2004.

The fundamental purposes of this landmark law were to establish a conservation fund and to authorize the Congress to appropriate up to \$10 million per year to finance worthwhile projects to assist highly endangered species of rhinos and tigers.

Since its enactment, the Congress has appropriated \$1 million over the last three fiscal years. While this is much less than the \$30 million that was authorized, this money has funded 31 conservation projects at a cost of \$585,000. The sponsors of these projects will match these funds, and I am confident that these grants will help stop the destruction of these animals.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 16 rhino projects, 7 tiger projects, and 8 projects to benefit both species have been funded. These have included an adopt-a-warden program in Indonesia, aerial monitoring of rhinos in Zaire, investigation of poaching and illegal trade of wild tigers in India, and the training of wildlife rangers in Tanzania.

Without this fund, I am convinced that rhinos and tigers would continue

to slide toward extinction. After all, there are only 11,000 rhinos and fewer than 5,000 tigers living in the wild.

This small investment has become a powerful weapon in the international fight to stop the poaching of these species, and it is one of the only continuous sources of money available to range states.

During the subcommittee hearing on this legislation, every witness, including the administration, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Safari Club International, and the World Wildlife Fund spoke in strong support of H.R. 3113. Each of these witnesses testified that the grants made under this act will make a positive difference in conserving rhinos and tigers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote aye on this important wildlife conservation bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise also to enthusiastically support this legislation. This will provide much-needed funds, again, taxpayer money, for the protection of highly endangered rhinos and tigers throughout the world.

Why do we spend American taxpayer money on this? There is probably no two animals more urgently in need of strong conservation programs. Throughout their range, these two magnificent species have been brought to their knees by habitat destruction and commercial trade in products made from their carcasses, essentially, greed.

Today, our President is viewing wildlife on a safari in Botswana. Hopefully, he will be able to see a rhino, perhaps a black or even more endangered and rare, a white rhino.

If we do not act and pass legislation like this, the next President to visit Africa may not be so fortunate to ever see a rhino.

While CITES, which is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Flora and Fauna, has made great strides in controlling the international trade of rhino horn daggers and tiger skins, these species continue to decline due to massive habitat destruction and the black market demand for traditional medicines using rhino and tiger products.

Here in the United States, we sometimes find it hard to believe that a relatively small amount of money can produce such tremendous conservation benefits when applied to on-the-ground programs in other parts of the world, but, believe me, it works. The desperate situation of all species of rhinos and tigers worldwide makes every conservation dollar that much more critical in the battle to save them from extinction.

Since its enactment in 1994, the rhino and tiger conservation fund has supported the investigation of poaching and illegal trade in wild tigers in India,

a Tiger Community Education Program in Indonesia, aerial monitoring of white rhinos in Zaire, and other programs that are desperately needed if we are to have any hope of saving these species for future generations.

This is simple and straightforward law, thanks to the excellent management and implementation by the Department of the Interior, which has provided great conservation bang for a very limited buck.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in favor of H.R. 3113, a bill introduced by the distinguished Chairman of the House Resources Committee, to extend the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act.

Prior to 1994, the United States had not provided any financial assistance to those countries that were desperately trying to stop the slaughter of their rhino and tiger populations. In fact, today all species of rhinos and tigers are listed as endangered in the United States and internationally.

With the passage of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, this Nation took a bold step when we told the rest of the world that we would support conservation projects to assist these two irreplaceable species.

While the amount of assistance has been small, about \$585,000, our government has now funded 31 conservation projects for rhinos and tigers, and the Department of the Interior is now carefully reviewing an additional 70 proposals.

It is essential that this assistance be available in the future, and that is why I support H.R. 3113. During our Subcommittee hearing on this legislation, Secretary Bruce Babbitt testified that "the Rhino and Tiger Conservation Fund has gotten off to an excellent start over the past three years. The job has only just begun, however. There is much more work to do and no shortage of committed partners seeking our help in Africa and Asia." At the same hearing, Dr. Terry Maple, the President-Elect of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, states that "this Fund is designed to be a 'quick strike' in assisting conservation organizations on the front lines of saving these animals from extinction."

Mr. Chairman, it was no surprise that every witness strongly supported the enactment of H.R. 3113 because they believe, as I do, that the grants made from this Fund are making a positive difference in the international fight to save rhinos and tigers.

I urge an AYE vote on this important wildlife conservation measure.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, there is such unanimous support on this legislation that no one asked for time, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3113.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.